

# Recensement Census



NATIONAL CENSUS TEST

Report No. 24

Household Maintainer

RECENSEMENT

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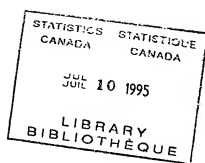


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# **NATIONAL CENSUS TEST**

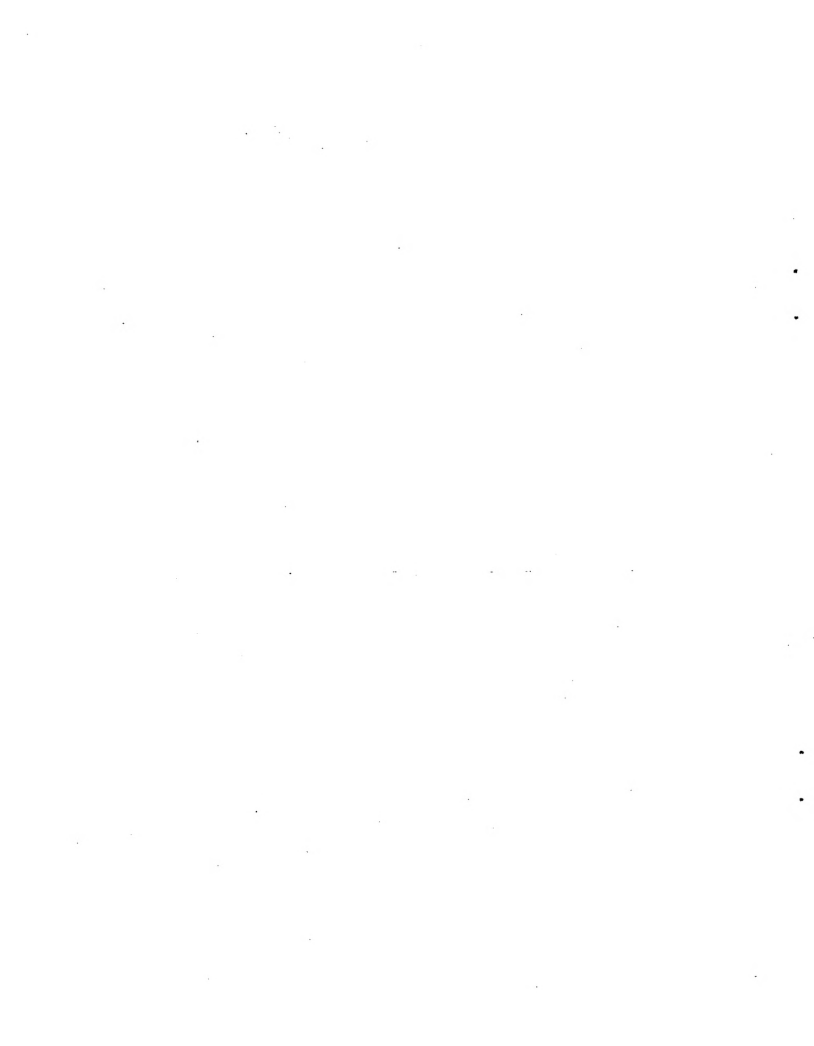
**Report No. 24**

**Household Maintainer**

**Oliver Lo**

**Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division**

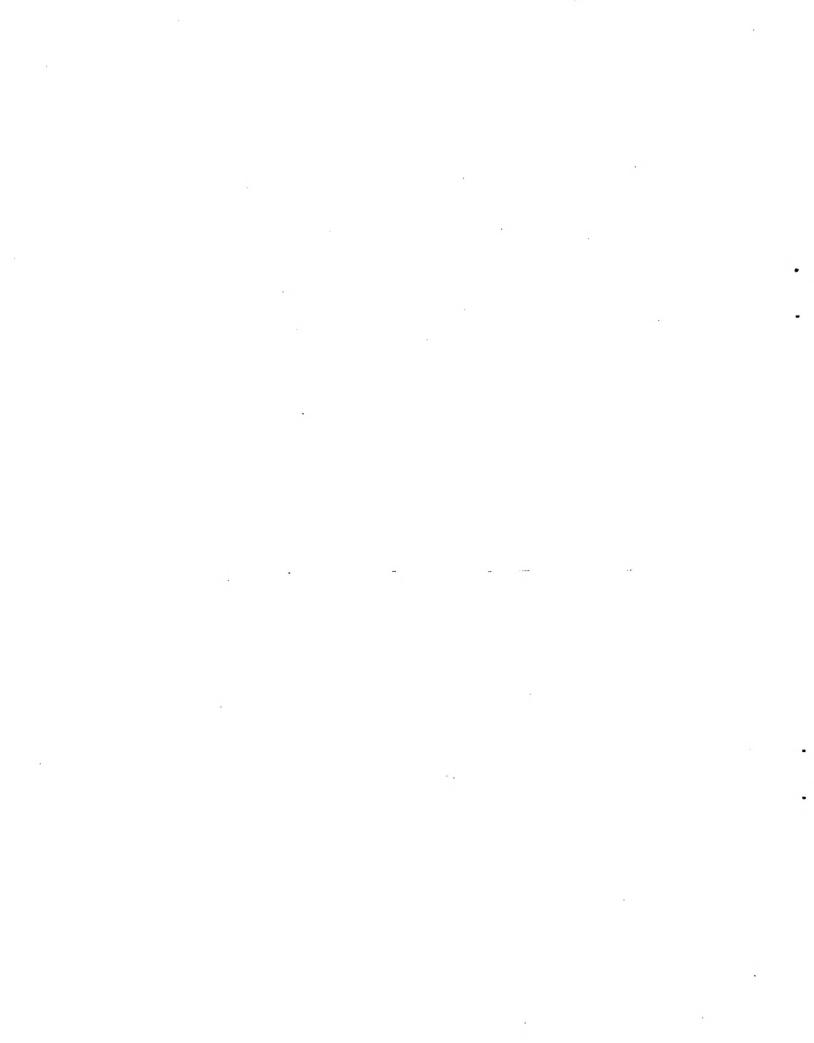
**August, 1994**



## Executive Summary

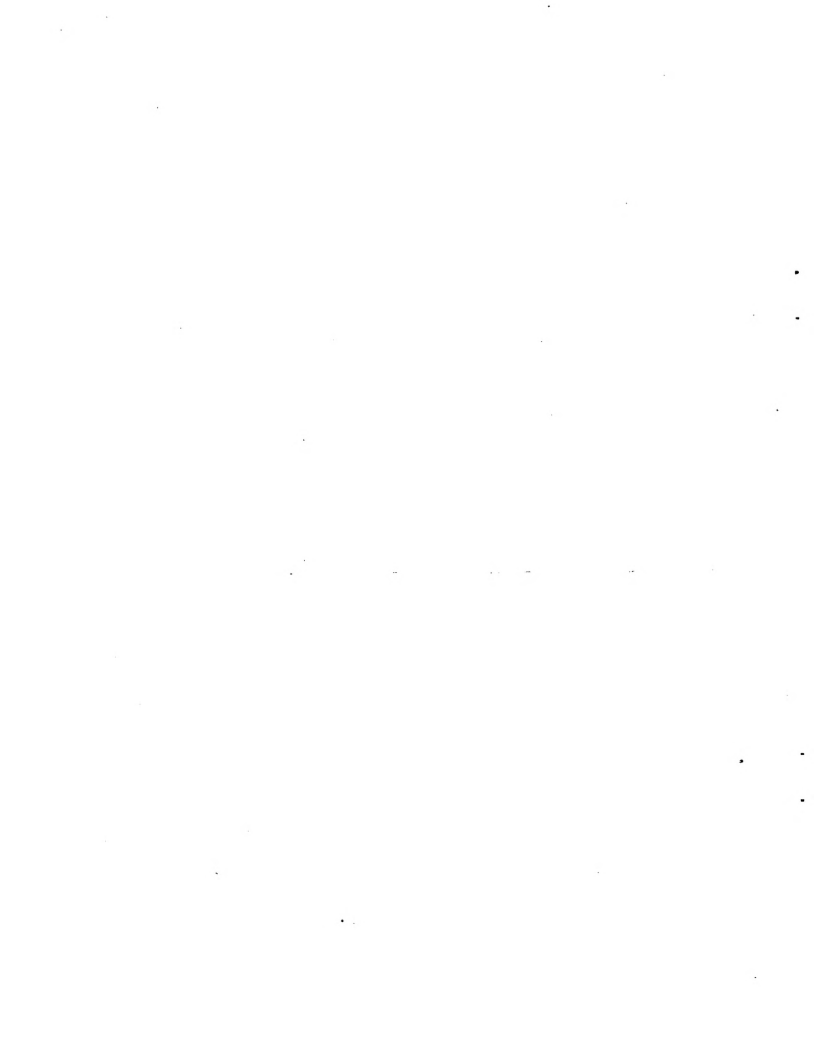
The National Census Test (NCT) results indicated that:

1. The non-response rate was reduced by the follow-up interviews from 6.5% in the EFS to 1.9% in the LFS. The reduced non-response rate was comparable to that in the 1991 Census.
2. The response patterns from the NCT samples were comparable to the 1991 Census data.
3. Comparisons of the NCT and 1991 Census data for selected characteristics yielded similar absolute and proportionate distributions with acceptable differences.
4. It is concluded that, with follow-up, the quality of household maintainer data obtained from the NCT check box approach is comparable to that of the write-in/office coded responses in the 1991 Census.



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Pierre Gauthier and Arlene Jamieson, both of Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, provided much-needed assistance in the preparation and retrieval of data for analysis under severe time constraints. The author is grateful for their contributions.





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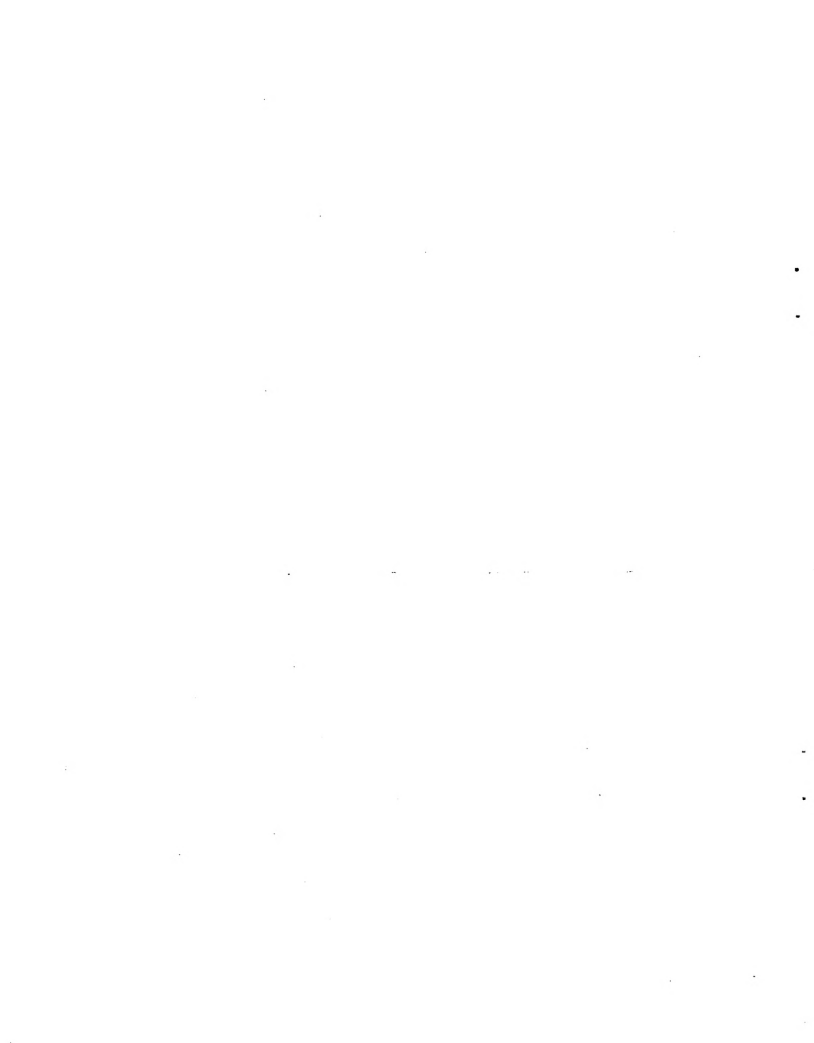
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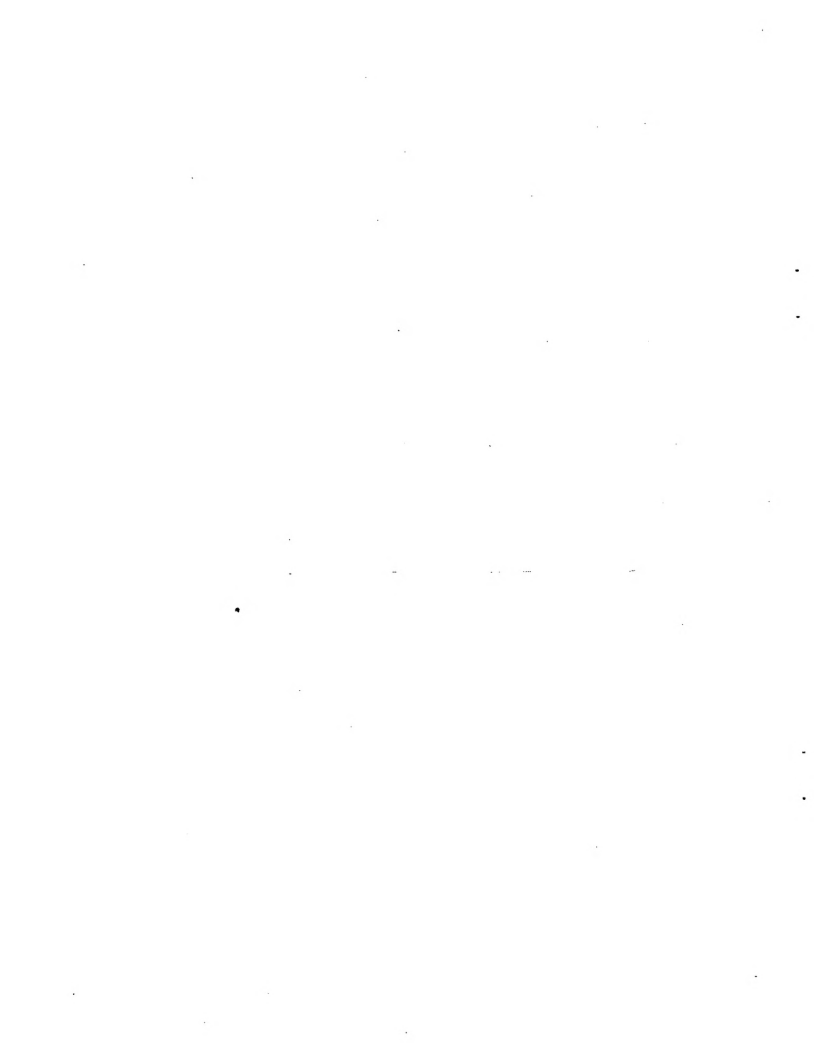


## INTRODUCTION

Question 47 in the 1993 National Census Test (NCT) asked the respondents to identify the person(s) in the household who pays the major expenses for shelter. This question corresponds to question H1 in the 1991 Census. The data obtained from this question are used to derive the "Primary household maintainer" and "Number of maintainer" variables.

The only difference between the 1994 NCT question and Question H1 in the 1991 Census lies in the method of data collection. In the 1991 Census, respondents were asked to write in the name(s) of the person(s) responsible for payments for shelter. The write-in responses were then coded by Census. In the NCT, respondents were asked to indicate who pays for shelter by checking the appropriate box(es) beside the person number (Persons 1 to 6). Two other check boxes were provided to accomodate cases where a person listed on a questionnaire other than the first one makes the payments (the "A person who is listed on another questionnaire for this dwelling" check box), and cases where a person living outside the dwelling makes the payments (the "A person who does not live here" check box). A specimen of the 1993 NCT appears in Appendix A. This new method of data collection would result in resource savings by eliminating the need for manual coding of this question during processing.

This report presents the findings of the evaluation of the 1993 NCT responses for Question 47. The objective of this exercise



was to determine if the quality of household maintainer data obtained from the new check box approach is comparable to that of the write-in/office-coded responses in the 1991 Census.

The evaluation involved an examination of the non-response rate, the frequency of invalid cases, and a comparison with the 1991 data for selected characteristics of the primary household maintainer, as well as the distribution of private households by the number of household maintainers.

## **2. Non-response and total "error" rates**

The non-response rates from the Edit Failure Sample (EFS), the weighted Labour Force sample (LFS) and the 1991 Census are shown in Table 1. The reduction in the non-response rate from 6.1% in the EFS to 1.9% in the weighted LFS is attributable to the follow-up interviews that took place.

Equally notable is the comparability of the total "error" rate in the NCT with the rate for the 1991 data. As one of the measurements of data quality, the total "error" rate in the NCT suggests that the NCT approach of data collection would probably yield data that commensurate with the 1991 Census data in quality, provided that the non-response rate is around 2%.

## **3. Number of household maintainers**

A derived variable, "Number of household maintainers", was created from the NCT responses, and the resultant data were



compared with the 1991 data.

As can be seen in Table 2, the NCT data are comparable to the 1991 Census data in terms of both the absolute and proportionate distributions.

#### **4. Primary household maintainer**

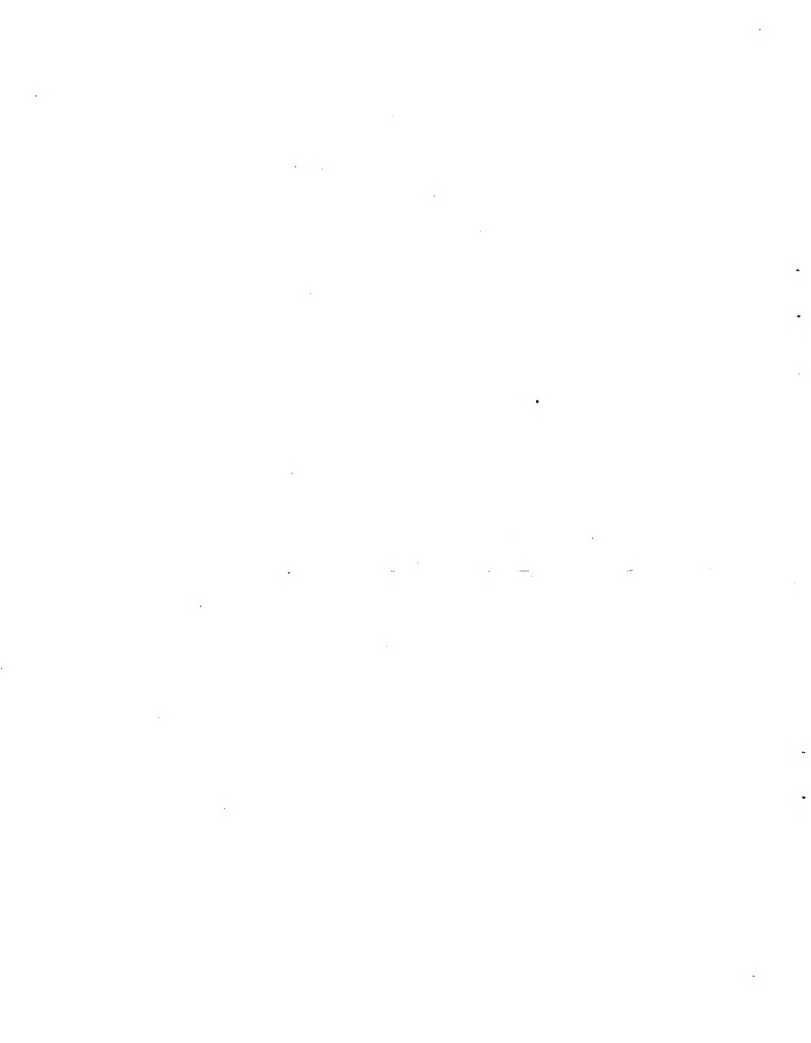
Where possible, a "primary household maintainer" (i.e. the first person in the household identified as being the household maintainer) was derived for each household in the NCT sample in the same manner as in the 1991 Census. Selected demographic characteristics of the primary household maintainer were then retrieved for comparison with the 1991 data.

##### **4.1 Person number of the primary household maintainer**

The figures in Table 3 indicate that 95% of the persons identified as the primary household maintainers in the NCT were Persons 1 in the households, and 5% were Persons 2. This response pattern was identical to that in the 1991 Census.

##### **4.2 Age group of the primary household maintainer**

The distribution of primary household maintainers by age group from the NCT samples is shown alongside the 1991 Census distribution in Table 4. With the possible exception of the distribution from the EFS, the NCT distributions are comparable to the 1991 Census distribution. It is not clear why the EFS distribution differs from the other distributions.





#### **4.3 Sex of the primary household maintainer**

Table 5 presents the distribution of primary household maintainers by sex. The Special Population Sample of the NCT exhibits a distribution that differs from the other NCT samples and from the 1991 Census.

#### **4.4 Primary household maintainer by relationship to Person 1**

Table 6 shows a comparison of the distribution of the household maintainer by the relationship to Person 1. It should be noted that the "Other" category represents 29% and 21% of the distributions in the EFS and the combined Special Population and LFS samples respectively. These include cases where the respondents did not self-identify as Person 1, non-responses and multiple responses, on the Relationship question. If the 1991 Census processing strategy was implemented, Person 1 would be assigned the household maintainer in the vast majority of cases.

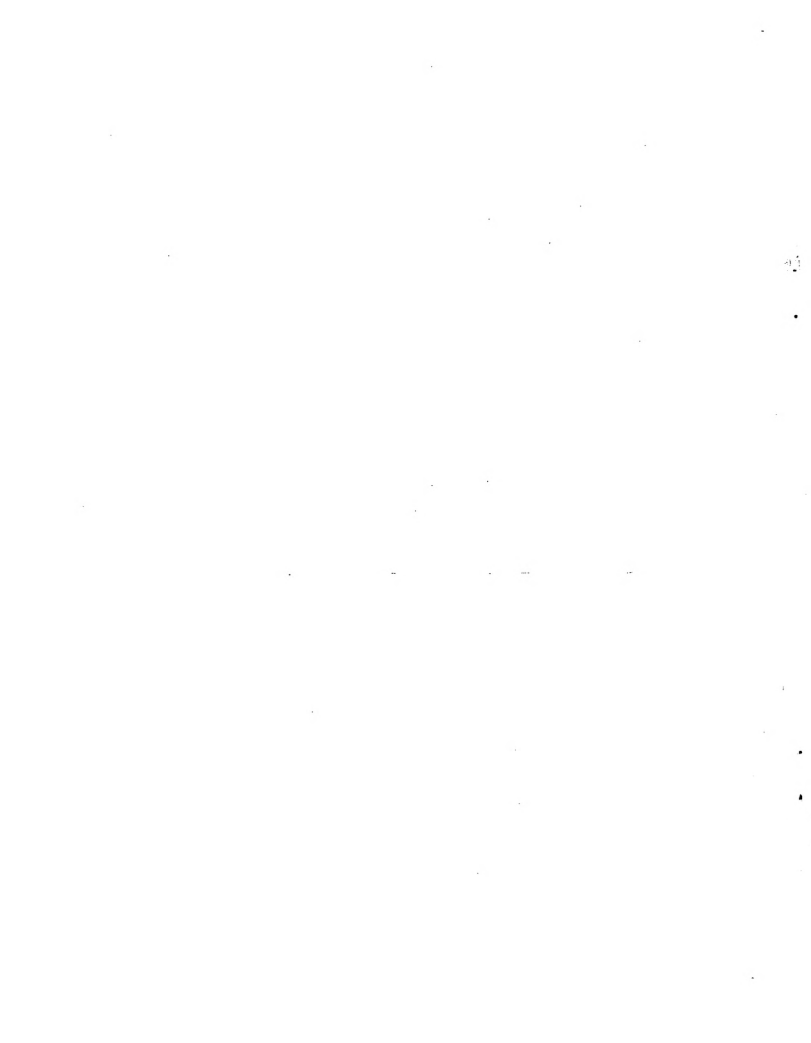
### **5. SUMMARY**

The results of the analyses indicate that the NCT responses for Question 47 (household maintainer) are similar to the 1991 Census data in terms of: non-response and invalid response rates, response patterns, and the distributions for selected characteristics of the primary household maintainer. Furthermore, the magnitude of invalid response patterns would not cause undue



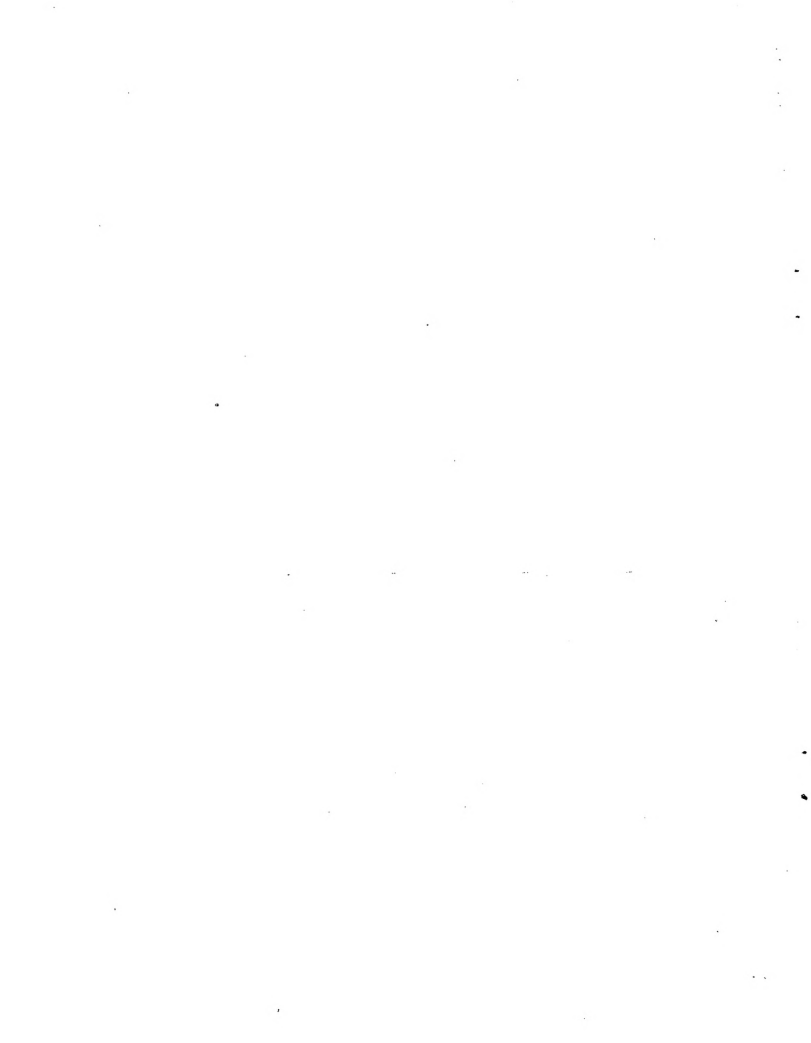
distortion to the resultant data.

The results suggest that, given similar non-response rates, the NCT check box approach of data collection would likely yield data that are comparable to the 1991 data.



**Table 1. Comparison of Non-response Rates**

	1993 NCT		1991 Census
	EFS	LFS	
	('000)		('000)
<b>Total</b>	3,822	10,480	9,940
<b>Non-response</b>	235	198	
<b>Invalid</b>	—	14	
<b>Not determined</b>	15	68	
<b>Total error rate</b>	6.5%	2.7%	2.2%



## 1993 National Census Test

**Table 2. Private Households showing Number of Household Maintainers for Canada, 1993, Weighted  
(Excluding Yukon & N.W.T)**

Maintainers	EFS		Special pop.		LFS		1991 Census	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count '000	%	Count '000	%
1 Maintainer	2,270	64	1,860	68	6480	63	6,580	66
2 Maintainers	1,255	35	770	28	3590	35	3,250	33
3 Maintainers	30	1	60	2	90	1	90	1
4 Maintainers	10	0	20	1	40	0	20	0
5 Maintainers	5	0	10	0	10	0	5	0
6 Maintainers	5	0	1	0	5	0	0	0
Total maintainers	3,560	100	2,720	99	10,210	100	9,940	100

**Note:** Excludes Indian reserves and settlements



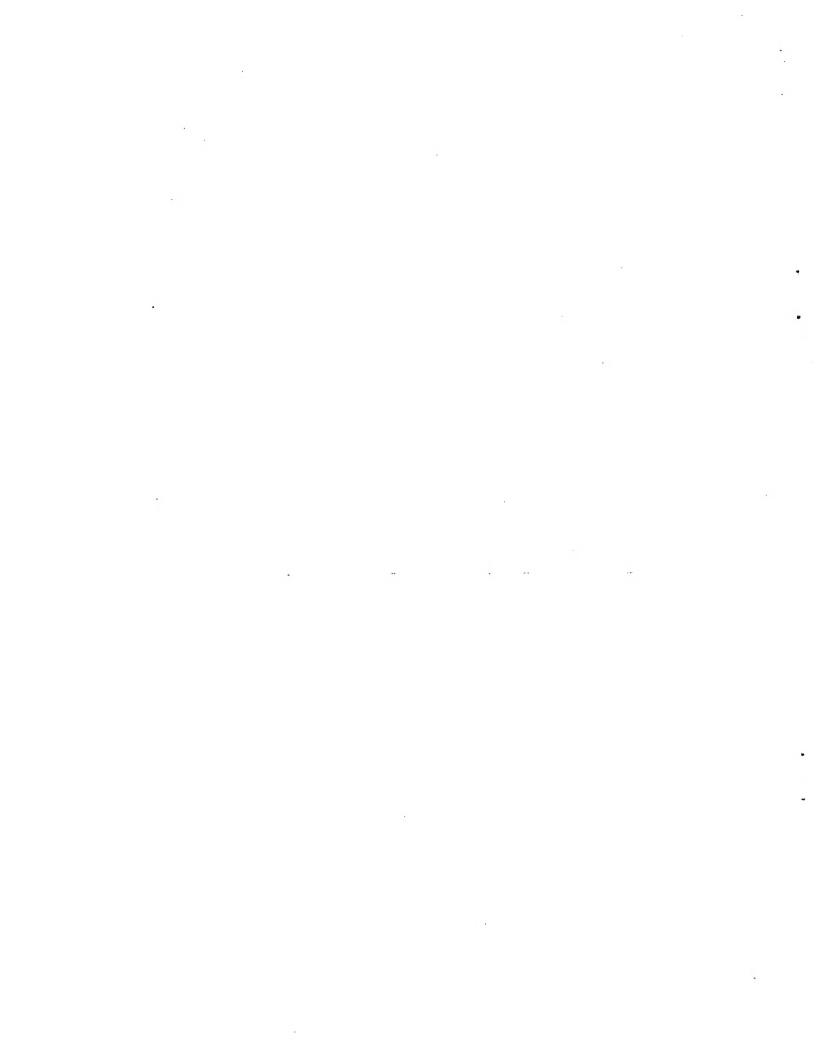


### 1993 National Census Test

Table 3. Private Household Maintainer showing Person Number of Primary Household Maintainer for Canada, 1993, Weighted  
(Excluding Yukon & N.W.T.)

Person ID	LFS		@95% Confidence Interval	%	1991 Census '000	%
	Count '000	CV				
Person 1	9,708	0.4	7,765	95	9,438	95
Person 2	455	6.0	5460	5	472	5
Person 3	37	22.0	1628	0	23	0
Person 4	9	43.5	785	0	5	0
Person 5	-	-	-	-	2	0
Person 6	-	-	-	-	1	0
Person 7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Person 8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Person 9	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total person ID	10,209	0.4	8,167	100	9,941	100

Note: Excludes indian reserves and settlements

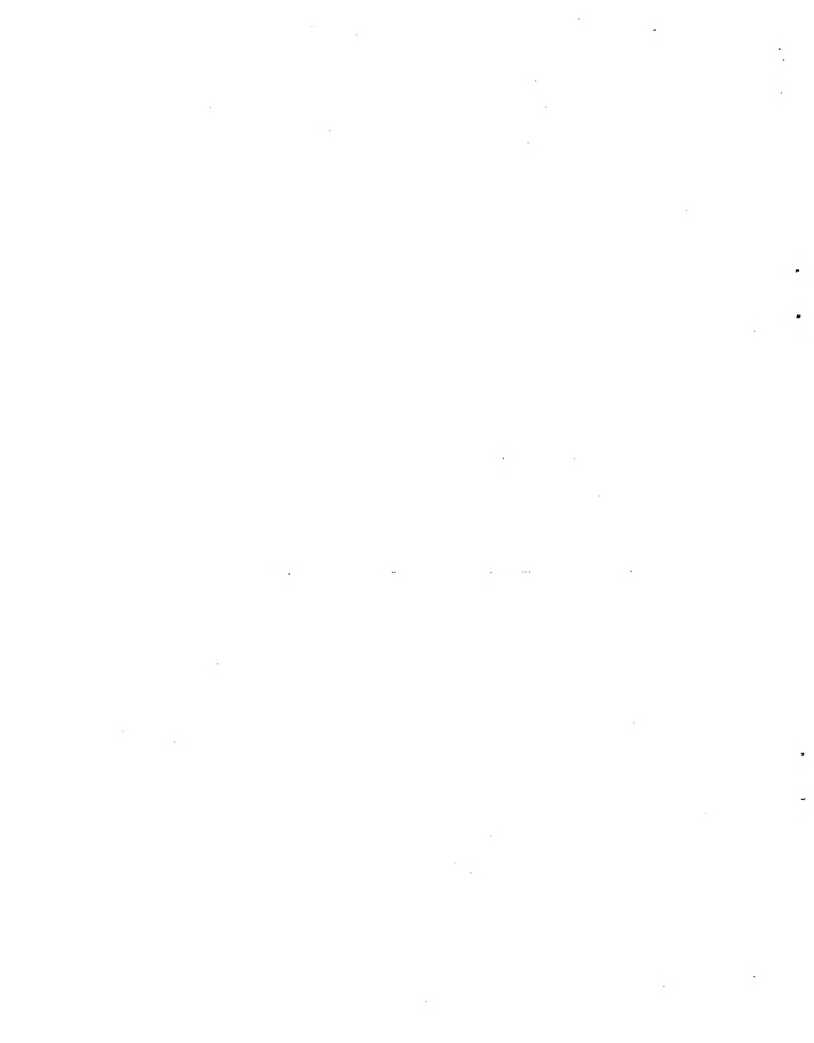


## 1993 National Census Test

**Table 4. Primary Household Maintainer showing Age of Primary Household Maintainer for Canada, 1993, Weighted  
(Excluding Yukon & N.W.T)**

Age group	EFS		Special pop				LFS		1991 Census	%
	Count	%	Count	%	Count '000	CV	@95% Confidence Interval	% Distr.	'000	
Less than 25	100	3	180	7	485	57	5,529	5	470	5
15-44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44	1350	38	1,190	44	4,570	13	11,882	45	4,580	45
45 +	2100	59	1335	49	5,160	13	13,416	50	4,970	50
Total age	3,550	100	2720	100	10,210	6.2	8,168	100	10,020	100

**Note: Excludes indian reserves and settlements**

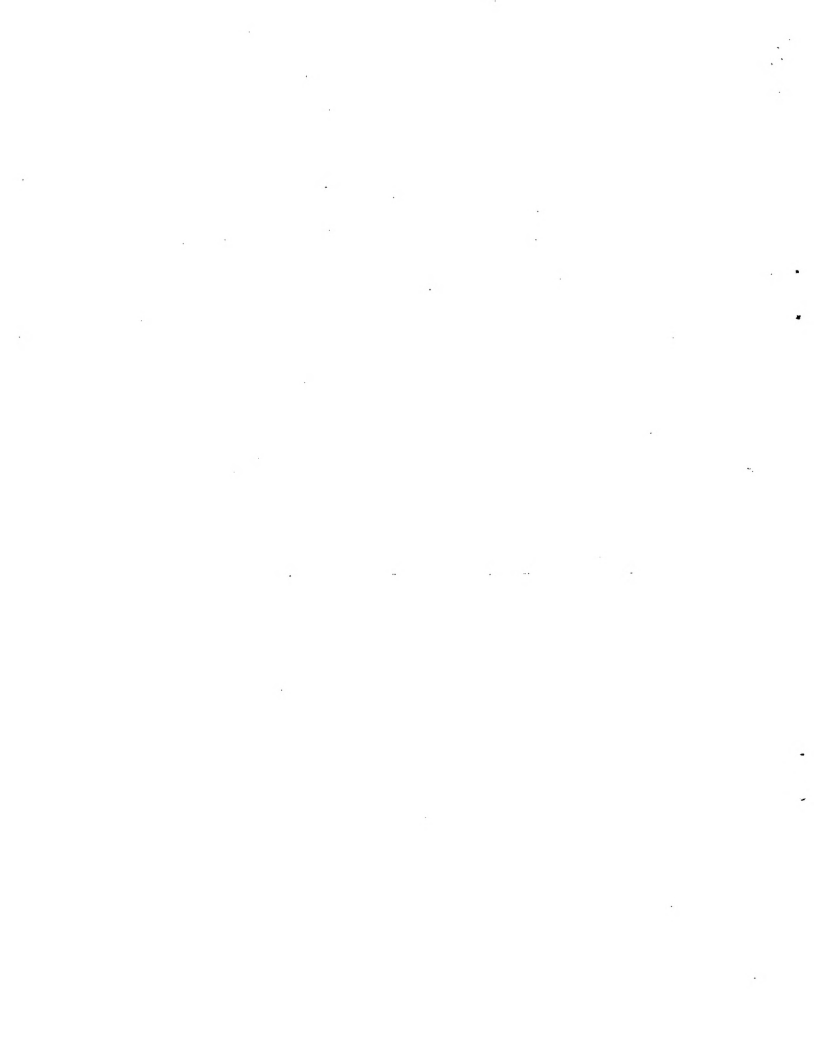


# 1993 National Census Test

**Table 5. Primary Household maintainer showing Sex of Primary Household maintainer for Canada, 1993, Weighted (Excluding Yukon & N.W.T)**

Sex	EFS		Special pop				LFS		1991 Census	%
	Count	%	Count	%	Count '000	CV	@95% Confidence Interval	% Distr.	'000	
Male	2,520	71	1,560	57	6,870	0.9	12,366	67	7,000	70
Female	1,030	29	1,150	42	3,340	2.0	13,360	33	3,020	30
Total sex	3,550	100	2,720	100	10,210	0.2	8,168	100	10,020	100

**Note: Excludes indian reserves and settlements**



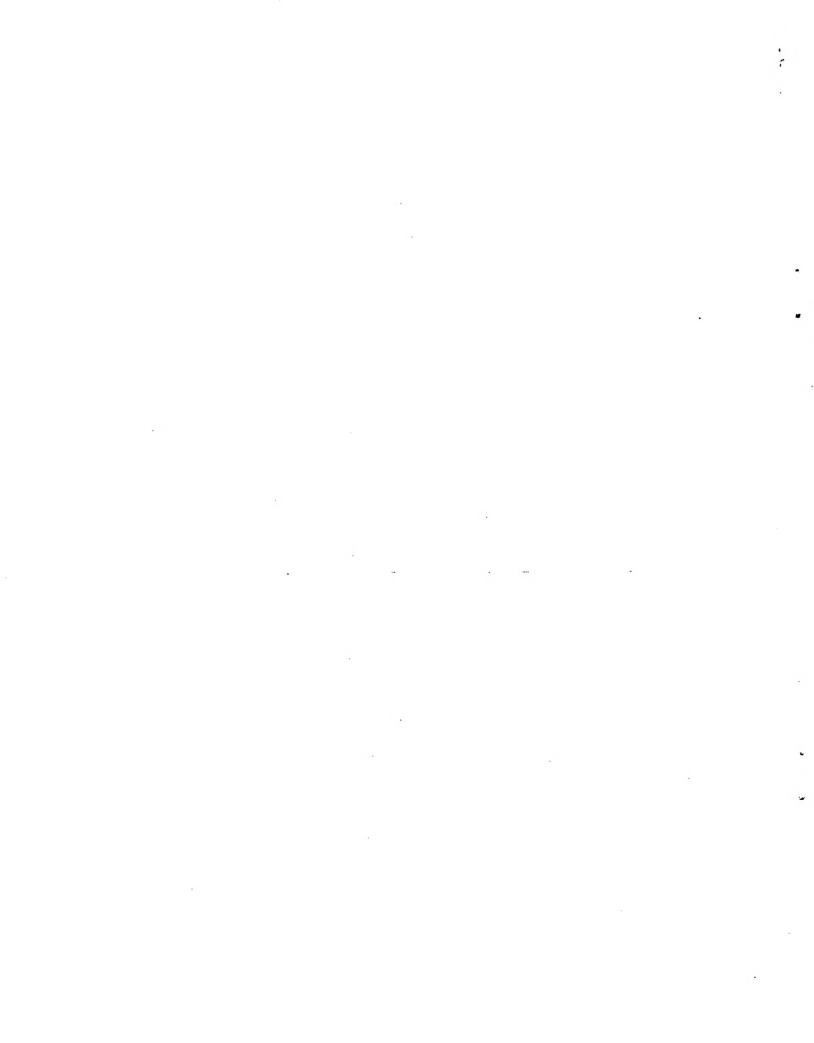
## 1993 National Census Test

**Table 6. Total Private Household by Relationship to Person 1 of Primary Household Maintainer for Canada, 1993, Unweighted  
(Excluding Yukon & N.W.T.)**

Relationship	EFS		LFS & Special Rep file			1991 Census	%
	Count	%	Count Unweighted	CV	% Distr.	'000	
Person 1	2,385	67	10,690	41.3	73	9,438	95
Person 1 spouse	130	4	535	58.4	4	413	4
Other relatives	10	0	100	130.5	0	71	1
Non-relatives	10	0	15	-	0	20	0
Other *	1,020	29	3,340	75.4	23	-	-
<b>Total relationship</b>	<b>3,555</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14,680</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note: Excludes indian reserves and settlements**

\* Other includes cases where the household's first respondent neglected to mark 'Person1' - the only choice for this reporting position. Also, includes Non-Response and Multiple Responses.





## Appendix A

### Question H1 in the 1991 Census

#### STEP 10

Answer the following two questions about this dwelling.

07.

- H1. Print the name(s) of the person(s) who pay the rent or mortgage, taxes, electricity, etc., for this dwelling.

A **dwelling** is a separate set of living quarters with a **private entrance** from the outside or from a common hallway or stairway inside the building. This entrance should not be through someone else's living quarters.

Family name

Given name

02

03

04

05

06

Note: If no one living here makes such

payments, mark "None"

### Question 47 in the NCT

Answer Questions 47 and 48 about this dwelling.

A **dwelling** is a separate set of living quarters with a **private entrance** from the outside or from a common hallway or stairway inside the building. This entrance should not be through someone else's living quarters.

47. Who pays the rent or mortgage, taxes, electricity, etc., for this dwelling?

If more than one person contributes to such payments, mark as many circles as apply.

- 1 ☐ Person 1  
2 ☐ Person 2  
3 ☐ Person 3  
4 ☐ Person 4  
5 ☐ Person 5  
6 ☐ Person 6  
7 ☐ A person who is listed on another questionnaire for this dwelling  
8 ☐ A person who does not live here

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